

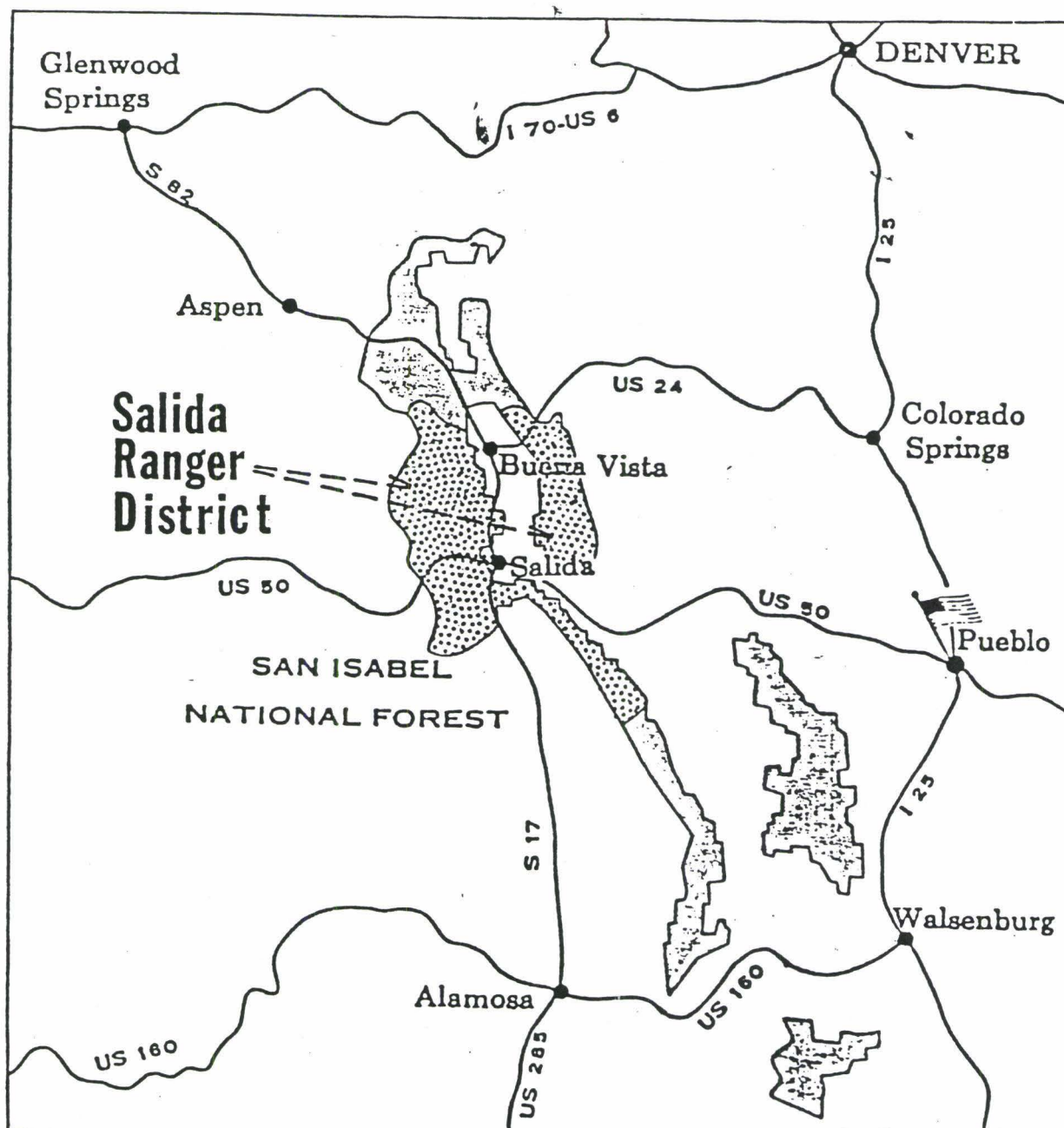
# Salida Ranger District

## Customer Driven Recreation Development

### 5-Year Action Plan

(1989 - 1993)

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SALIDA RANGER DISTRICT  
CUSTOMER DRIVEN  
RECREATION DEVELOPMENT 5-YEAR ACTION PLAN  
(1989-1993)

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Clemson Class of 1987

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## ABSTRACT

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Title: Customer Driven Recreation Development 5-Year Action Plan  
Salida Ranger District

### Abstract:

An action plan provides concrete planning direction to a program of work. In the U.S. Forest Service, action plans provide an orderly planning direction to timber management. Recreation, however, currently lacks the direction provided by an action plan. To alleviate the problem, this paper creates a Customer Driven Recreation Development 5-Year Action Plan for recreation on the Salida Ranger District of the Pike/San Isabel National Forest located in Salida, Colorado. It formulates a list of recreation development projects for implementation over the next 5-year period (1989-93) on the District. Customer input is gathered with the help of an 8-member customer advisory group. Members are selected because of their interest in a certain type of national forest recreation. Each major recreation interest is represented by the group. A process called Nominal Group Technique (Delbecq et al) is used to gather input from the group and assemble it into a useable, orderly form. This ensures a Recreation Development 5-Year Action Plan that reflects the recreation customer's needs, or one that is "customer driven." This report not only provides a 5-year action plan for recreation development, but also lists long range development projects and long range recreation guidelines developed from both Forest Service and customer input.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Salida Ranger District

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### Summary:

The Salida Ranger District is located on the Pike/San Isabel National Forest in Salida, Colorado. In the past, recreation development occurred much as it had on any other district. When it came time to submit funding requests for needed recreation development projects, the recreation staff would pull out the wish list of project needs that had been jotted down throughout the past year, sort through them, and turn in the most needed projects. Although this technique provided a list of needed recreation improvements, it did not ensure that the individual projects taken as a whole moved the recreation program towards any uniform goal. It also may not have represented the needs of the recreating visitors. To solve these problems, a Customer Driven Recreation Development 5-Year Action Plan has been written for the period 1989-93.

The objectives of the action plan are:

1. To provide a strong management direction to the recreation program of the Salida Ranger District that is compatible with the environment and meets the Forest Service planning objectives set forth in the Forest Plan, the Forest Recreation Strategy, and the District ROS.
2. To ensure that the recreation program of the Salida Ranger District meets the needs of the recreating visitor in both the present and future.
3. To make Forest recreation goals more site specific to the Salida Ranger District.
4. To ensure continuity in the direction of recreation development on the District even after personnel changes. This plan will leave a track for a new employee on the District to follow to ensure recreation development continues towards the same goals.

Customer input was obviously needed in order to create a 5-year action plan that meets the needs of the recreating customer. To obtain this input in an orderly and useable fashion, a small advisory group of recreators is selected. The group is composed of 8 members, each representing a different recreation interest. All major recreation interests on the District are represented by the group. Input from a small group is much easier to organize and use in a planning process than is input from large, often uncontrollable customer input meetings.

Input from the group is obtained and organized through a process called Nominal Group Technique (Delbecq et al, 1975). Through this process, the group develops a list of recreation development needs for the 1989-1993 5-year planning period. Once the list is finalized, Nominal Group Technique completes the process by allowing the group to assign priorities to the projects by voting.

To ensure an opportunity for a large number of forest users to provide input, the advisory group contacts fellow recreators at recreation sites, and at club meetings for their recreation activity (ie. Trout Unlimited meetings for fishermen). Local newspaper articles and radio announcements keep the public informed on progress and asks for comment on the recreation needs of the Salida Ranger District during each step in the development process of the plan.

The final product of the Customer Driven Recreation Development 5-Year Action Plan is a list of needed recreation projects. This is displayed as a charted list of projects for implementation by year. Each project is composed of certain steps that bring a project to completion. Each step of a project is carefully scheduled, because some preliminary steps, like doing a categorical exclusion, are required the previous year in order to have the groundwork laid for project completion. The completion of each project on time is, of course, contingent on receiving the assumed funding levels. Each project will also undergo a review by the district recreation staff prior to the time of implementation. This will be done to make certain the project is still needed and desirable under the present recreation situation. If a more pressing recreation need has surfaced, after careful review, the district recreation staff may substitute the more needed recreation project.

The Recreation Development 5-Year Action Plan also provides a list of recreation projects that require longer than 5 years to complete. This list resulted from customer input, and is included so that these longer range projects can be worked towards when time and funding permit.

The plan also includes long range goals and guidelines compiled from both Forest Service planning documents, and customer input. These are included to make certain that future development beyond this 5-year planning period takes place in the presence of the same long range goals and guidelines. This will ensure that recreation development on the Salida Ranger District is proceeding in a consistent direction, towards a common goal.

It is recommended that this plan be followed so that recreation development on the Salida Ranger District occurs in an orderly manner, with a focused direction. Also, following this "customer driven" plan will ensure that recreation development on the District accurately reflects the recreation customers wants and needs from their national forest.



## A. INTRODUCTION

The Salida Ranger District is located on the San Isabel National Forest in south central Colorado and is bordered on the west by the Continental Divide. It encompasses 453,000 acres and ranges in elevation between 7,000'-14,000'+. There are seven peaks on the District over 14,000 feet. The Arkansas River (recently rated the 7th best rafting river in the U.S.) flows through the middle of the major towns on the District. Monarch Ski Area is also located on the District.

The diversity of recreation offered on the Salida Ranger District causes recreation pressure from locals and many tourists. Both needs must be considered when developing a recreation plan.

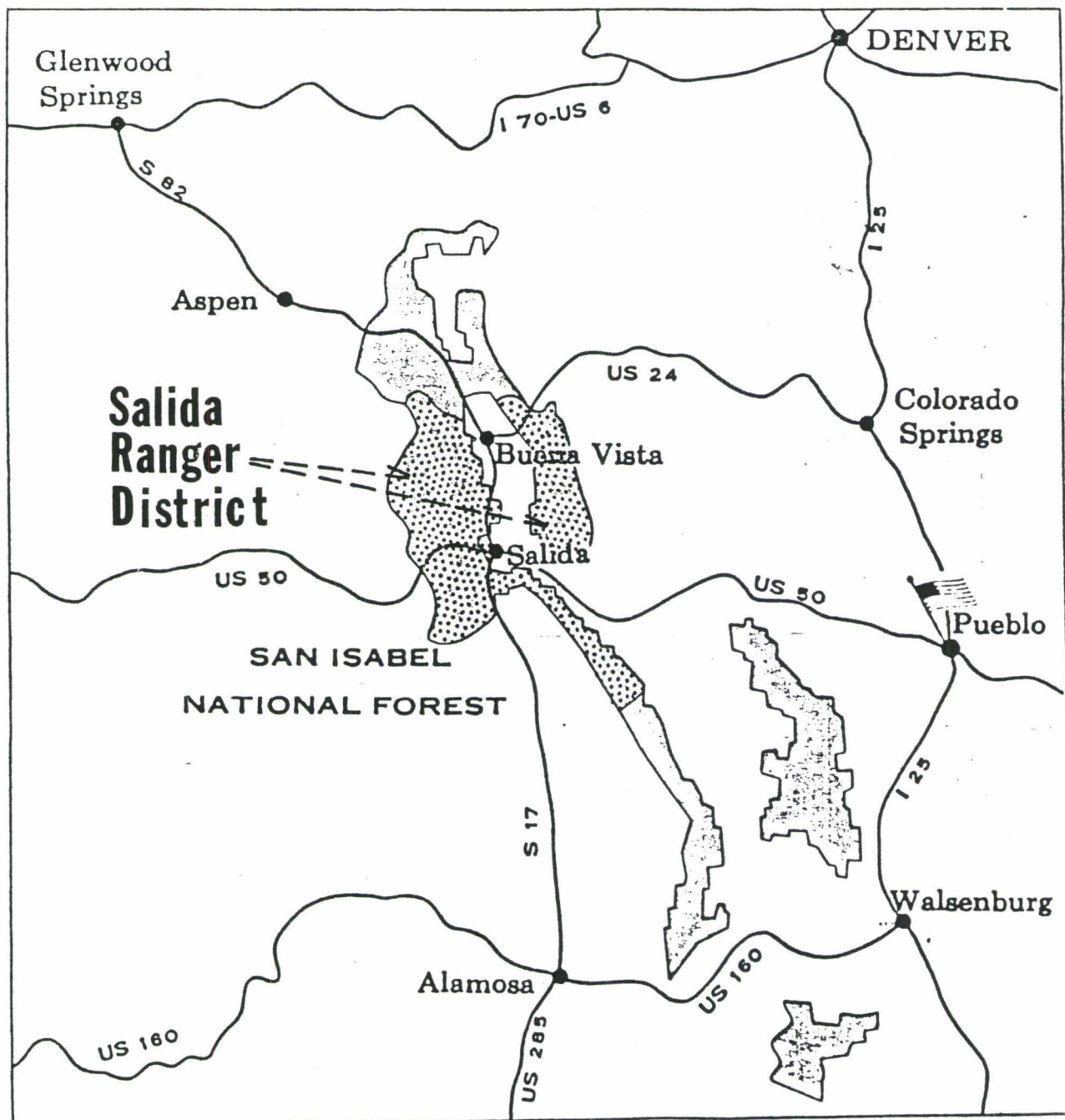
The two major towns that are located near the forest are Salida (pop. 3,000) and Buena Vista (pop. 2,000). The major employer of these two towns was a large molybdenum mine which recently closed down, adding to the already high unemployment rate. The unemployment rate for October 1987 was 10.2 percent. The two towns are emphasizing tourism in an attempt to increase revenue. The two major tourist industries are centered around summer rafting and winter skiing. The development of recreation attractions on the Salida Ranger District is needed to help these communities in their endeavor to draw tourists and hence promote their economic development.

Another important fact about this area is that a large portion of the population is retired. Recreation facilities are needed for the older age group. Currently, barriers exist making some of the recreation facilities inaccessible to some older, less mobile, people. Any future development of new, or reconstruction of existing recreation facilities, must be done with recreation access in mind.

Recreation use on the Salida Ranger District has been increasing between 5-8 percent annually partly due to its location. Many visitors to the area come from the Front Range of Colorado. The Front Range includes large population centers such as Denver, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo. The Salida Ranger District is only a 2-3 hour drive from these cities. This area is also a favorite playground of visitors from Texas and Oklahoma.

The area map on the following page provides an idea of the location of the Salida Ranger District.

## VICINITY MAP





When it comes to planning for the recreational needs of locals and tourists, the district recreation forester often feels as if recreation development proceeds in a vacuum. The recreation forester has only a vague idea of customer needs and how to focus them to direct recreation development.

The previously stated facts not only show that a strong, consistent action plan for recreation development is needed, but that it is critical that the plan reflect the needs of both local and out-of-town recreators. It must be a "customer driven" plan.

The following objectives will guide the development of this Customer Driven Recreation Development 5-Year Action plan:

1. To provide a strong management direction to the recreation program of the Salida Ranger District that is compatible with the environment and meets the Forest Service planning objectives set forth in the Forest Plan, the Forest Recreation Strategy, and the District ROS.
2. To ensure that the recreation program of the Salida Ranger District meets the actual needs of the recreating customer in both the present and future.
3. To make Forest recreation goals specified in the Forest Plan, more site specific to the Salida Ranger District.
4. To ensure continuity in the direction of recreation development on the District even after personnel changes. This plan will leave a track for a new employee on the District to follow to ensure that recreation development continues towards the same goals.

The result of this report will be a 5-year action plan outlining recreation development on the District. This will be accompanied by longer range goals that will help recreation development on the District head in a consistent, desired direction. This action plan will be developed using customer input gathered in an orderly, useable fashion. This will be done using a process called Nominal Group Technique, learned in my studies at Clemson.

## **B. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **1. Literature Providing Direction for the Recreation Development Plan:**

- a. LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN-Pike and San Isabel National Forests; Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands 1984 - Provided general recreation development goals for the future. Also identified the management units of the District. Each management unit emphasizes a different mix of multiple use resources. This affects the types of recreation developments possible and the possible recreational opportunities presented to the visitor in each management unit. When

developing recreation facilities, the emphasis of the management unit in which the facility was located, had to be taken into account to determine if the planned recreation development was compatible with the management emphasis.

b. Strategies in Recreation Management for the Next Decade (1987-97) on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests; Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands - Preliminary Draft - This document, still in its draft form, was used because it was designed to make the goals for future recreation development that are found in the LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (cited above) more specific.

c. Forest Service Manual 2300 - Provided general theory and guidelines for recreation development in the Forest Service.

d. 1986 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Book - This book aided in more fully defining ROS classifications to ensure that the proposed project met the long term recreation development goals for the area. The ROS definitions found in Appendix L are taken from this book.

## 2. Literature Providing Methodology for the Recreation Development Plan:

a. Group Techniques for Program Planning - Nominal Group Technique was outlined in this book authored by Delbecq, Van de Ven, and Gustafson. The Nominal Group Technique was used to obtain critical customer input in an orderly and useable form.

## C. METHODOLOGY USED TO DEVELOP THE ACTION PLAN

A common practice that has shown not to work is an open public meeting held to obtain input to the planning process. This type of meeting often degenerates into a contest of who can talk the loudest and longest. Often the information obtained from these meetings is unorganized, biased, and therefore difficult to use in the planning process.

### 1. Nominal Group Technique (A Definition)

To approach customer input from a proven method, the Nominal Group Technique was used as outlined in the book entitled, Group Techniques for Program Planning, by Delbecq et al. This is a process whereby information can be obtained from the customer in an orderly and useable fashion. This technique also prevents one member, or special interest group, from monopolizing the discussion and thereby controlling the outcome of customer comments. It allows each member of the group to have their opinions heard without being overly influenced or quieted by another member of the group.



The Nominal Group Technique is a structured session which allows for the aggregation of individual judgments into a group decision. The process requires a face to face meeting of the participants and adherence to a prescribed format. The initial period of idea generation is a time in which each participant formulates an independent list of ideas after which each participant's ideas are shared and openly discussed. Individual judgements conclude the process as ideas are rated and/or ranked by the individuals for aggregation into a group decision (Delbecq et al., 1975).

A description of Nominal Group Technique as it was used in this project follows.

## **2. Customer Advisory Group Representatives (Participating in Nominal Group Technique)**

In order to obtain customer input into the needs of recreation on the Salida Ranger District, a group of recreation customers from the public was selected. The selected group had a representative from each of the many different facets of recreation on the District. The District recreation staff and the ranger met and selected the members of the group using their local knowledge of what the major recreation interests were on the District, and who from the public was interested and active in each recreation interest. The group included the following:

- Equestrian - Ed Herb -Horseback rider from Buena Vista.
- Fishing - Fred Rassmussen -Trout Unlimited.
- Hiking - Gladie Youngblood -"Skikers" local hiking group.
- Motorcycling - Larry Lund -Colorado Trail Riders Association, & Rocky Mountain Trials Association.
- Senior Citizen Recreation - Peggy Hart -Salida Senior Citizen Center.
- Snowmobiling - Dave Bowers -Heart of the Rockies Snowmobile Club.
- Tourism - Judy Green -Salida Chamber of Commerce.
- Wilderness & Cross Country Skiing - Dick Scar -Trailhead Outdoor Supply Store.

Meetings of the above group were held in order to obtain input as to what recreation facilities the Salida Ranger District needs to develop, or improve, over the next 5 years. The group was also polled for input on long range goals the District should be striving to accomplish.

Customer input on the recreation needs of the Salida Ranger District was obtained using this small group of specialists rather than an open public meeting. The chosen method made it easier to obtain and rank recreation construction priorities in this format. To ensure that all customers did have a chance to comment on the plan, several things were done:

1. The members of the advisory group were asked to consult other recreators in their field of recreation interest. Most of these members belonged to local clubs pertaining to their interest. They were asked to use club meetings as opportunities to allow more people to give input into the outcome of the Customer Driven Recreation Development 5-Year Action Plan. In this way, most advisory group members contacted at least 50 recreators in their fields of recreation interest.

2. Recreation customers were kept informed as to the progress of the Recreation Development Plan through numerous local newspaper articles and radio announcements. They were also asked to provide ideas on the recreation facilities needed by contacting me or any members of the advisory group (See Appendix M). In this way, the number of people contacted increased many fold over the number the advisory group alone could have contacted.

3. Finally, after completion of the plan, the list of proposed projects was published in the newspaper to allow recreation customers one more chance to comment before the plan was implemented (See Appendix M).

**3. Customer Advisory Group Meetings** (Obtaining input through Nominal Group Technique)

**a. Meeting One - Tuesday, Nov. 17, 1987:**

The first meeting was used to get the group acquainted with the task before them. The group members were given three handouts:

1) Long Range Planning Guidelines for Recreation Development on the Salida Ranger District - (See Appendix B) - This was a list of general Forest Service planning goals for the Salida Ranger District. This gave the group a set of long range guidelines to keep their thinking focused on projects that are consistent with Forest Service ideology. These long range guidelines were taken from the Forest Plan and the document entitled, Strategies in Recreation Management for the Next Decade (1987-97) on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests; Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands - Preliminary Draft.

2) Existing Recreation Facilities - (See Appendix C) - This was a list of the currently existing recreation facilities on the Salida Ranger District. In order for the group to plan recreation development needs, they needed to know the facilities that already existed on the District.

3) Recreation Projects - (See Appendix D) - This handout was broken into two parts. The first part listed the projects proposed for FY 1988. These projects would be completed before the recreation development plan that the group was helping to develop became effective. The group needed to know what additional facilities would exist by the end of FY 1988 so they had an entire picture of the facilities offered. The second part of this handout listed the projects that the Salida Ranger District had been considering for construction in the years after FY 1988. These projects were not



listed in order to try to control the outcome of the ideas generated by the group. They were listed for two reasons:

- a) To act as "brain ticklers" and get the creative juices flowing.
- b) To get public comment on the merit of the preconceived Forest Service ideas. This was done by whether the Salida District ideas were included in the list of proposed ideas turned in. It was emphasized that these projects were being included as ideas only. They could use some of the ideas in their final lists if they wished, or could completely disregard them.

At the end of meeting one, the group was given approximately 3 weeks to individually develop their own lists of the recreation facilities needed on the Salida Ranger District. This list could include new facilities or needed maintenance and repair work on existing facilities. The group was asked to concentrate on facilities in their areas of expertise. They were also asked to consult with other people that had the same interests in order to draw on a wider knowledge base. Many of the members of the advisory group met with their local clubs in order to have a brain storming session to get the widest array of ideas possible. During this 3 week period, the group was working on the first step of the Nominal Group Technique process, the **generation of ideas** (Delbecq et al., 1975).

The group members were asked to turn their project proposals in two days before the second meeting. This allowed their individual lists to be combined into one reference list that could be used during the second meeting. Here the group was working on the second step of the Nominal Group Technique process, the **recording of ideas** (Delbecq et al., 1975).

b. Meeting Two - Sunday, Dec. 6, 1987:

The second meeting was held to accomplish the 3rd step in the Nominal Group Technique, the **serial discussion for clarification** (Delbecq et al., 1975). The compiled list developed from each member's input was handed out at this meeting (See Appendix E). At this point, estimated construction costs were not included on the list. This was done in order to allow the group to consider the facilities actually needed, unbiased by project cost.

Each project was individually discussed. Each member was asked to describe his/her project idea and inform the group of its necessity. Then all questions from other group members were answered. Through this process, each person developed a clear understanding of each project on the compiled list.

At the end of meeting two, the group was given a new goal. Up to this point, each member represented the perspective of a specific special interest group. The group members were now asked to shift their perspectives to look at the recreation needs of the Salida Ranger District from the wider viewpoint of all types of recreationists. Over the following 5 weeks, each member was to



consider all of the projects on the compiled list and decide on their top nine priorities. In their book, Group Techniques for Program Planning, Delbecq et al state, "Individuals are able to accurately rank or rate about seven (plus or minus 2) items. That is, group members can select five to nine priority items with some reliability of judgment." Due to the large number of items on the compiled list, the group members were asked to rank the largest number an individual is able to accurately rank, or 9.

c. Meeting Three - January 13, 1988:

This was the final meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to complete the last step of the Nominal Group Technique process, **voting on item importance** (Delbecq et al., 1975). The group was to develop a final ranked list of desired projects using each individuals list of the 9 most important projects. This was done by having each group member's priorities recorded on a flip chart at the front of the meeting room. The flip chart was labelled "Voting Tally To Rank Projects By Priority" (See Appendix F). All votes were then totaled by project to determine the project ranking. Projects were ranked from greatest to least number of points (See Appendix G).

Also, an appraisal of the cost of each proposed project was completed. This gave members of the group an idea of the projects that could be afforded during the 5-year life of the recreation development plan. As stated earlier, the group was intentionally not given an estimate of the cost of each project until after they made their priority rankings. The intention of the Nominal Group Technique exercise was to determine the most needed recreation projects. The results were not biased by putting a price estimate on items. This could have resulted in members of the advisory group becoming more worried about price than about need.

After all tallying had been done, the group was told that an average estimated annual budget for recreation development was approximately \$25,000. This figure was developed using the current year's recreation budget. It was emphasized that this figure was a very rough estimate because budgets fluctuate. The annual budget is also very hard to estimate because money is received in different appropriations that must be spent for a certain category of construction. Therefore, even if \$25,000 is received one year, the projects proposed by this plan may not exactly fit the way the \$25,000 is appropriated. This would result in not all of the money going towards projects delineated by this plan. The \$25,000 annual budget guideline is, therefore, a very rough planning tool that allows a general idea of during which year the project will be completed, and if there is sufficient funding to complete all of the projects.

A time for discussion was then allowed. Overall, the group felt that the ranked list of projects accurately represented the recreation needs on the Salida Ranger District.

Before this report was finalized, one final article was published in the newspaper (Appendix M). The article listed all of the proposed projects, ranked by order of importance, and asked the recreation customer for any further suggestions or changes before the list was finalized. Very few comments were received. One comment was that an outhouse at the old Angel of Shavano Campground was needed. Since the need for this outhouse has not been of major concern, it will be considered during the next update of this plan. Another comment was that a road closure at the end of the Mt. Antero 4-wheel drive road be reconstructed so that it once again stops traffic. This will be done during the coming field season. There were no objections to the list of projects that were published in the paper. Several positive statements such as, "Let's get started," were received.

#### D. ANALYSIS

In analyzing the ideas that were turned in by each of the group members for recreation needs on the Salida Ranger District, it became clear that not all proposals were items that could be or were intended to be completed during the 5-year plan. It therefore became necessary to sort the proposals into 3 categories.

##### 1. Project Categories:

- a. Projects which could be completed during a 5-year planning period (See Appendix E).
- b. Projects requiring special funding, approval, or extensive work to complete. These projects will require more than 5 years to complete and so will not fit well into this 5-year plan. They are listed in this report, however, as they represent valuable customer input and should be used as suggestions for longer range project goals when the opportunity arises (See Appendix H).
- c. Long range guidelines that the recreation visitor sees as important. These are not specific projects, but more general philosophies of recreation developments needed (See Appendix I). These will be used along with the long range goals set forth in both the Forest Plan and the document entitled, Strategies in Recreation Management for the Next Decade (1987-97) on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests; Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands - Preliminary Draft. They will make long range goals even more site specific and responsive to the recreation customer on the Salida Ranger District.

## 2. 5-Year Implementation Schedule Developed:

In analyzing the results and programming them into a 5-year construction schedule, an average annual budget of \$25,000 was used. As mentioned above under the description of meeting #3, developing an exact annual construction budget figure is very difficult. At best it is only a rough estimation to be used as a planning tool. In order to place the proposed projects into a 5-year construction schedule, however, a budget figure was needed. The \$25,000 annual budget was developed using the current year's recreation budget. If the Dollar figure is not accurate, the plan will still function. The plan will just not be completed in exactly 5 years. More or less time may be required, but since this is a formal plan, all items on the implementation schedule will be completed.

The following 5-Year Implementation Schedule is the key to this recreation development plan. It organizes the ranked list of recreation construction projects from Appendix G into a time schedule which will direct recreation development on the Salida Ranger District during the 1989-93 planning period. An annual budget of \$25,000 was the target. Combinations of ranked projects did not total exactly to \$25,000 in any one year. The annual budget, when averaged over 5 years, does come close to the \$25,000 target.



[illegible]

Not even half of the projects from the ranked list in Appendix G made the 5-year planning period due to the size of the annual budget. Since the projects were ranked in order of need, rather than expense, the most needed projects are the ones that will be dealt with during this 5-year planning period.

#### **4. Implementation Schedule Monitoring Process - Report to the Customers:**

Annually, a status report will be done on the progress of the plan implementation schedule. The report will be directed to the recreation customer and be designed to keep the recreation customer up to date on the status of the recreation development plan. An informed group of recreation customers is much better even if plan implementation is falling behind than a group that is kept in the dark. This informed group may even be able to help implement parts of the plan that they see are not getting done by rallying support, volunteering to help in the accomplishments of some projects, or even helping to come up with some matching funding through the Forest Service challenge cost share program. The annual status report will also provide a method for plan monitoring by the recreation forester.

The status report will be issued in the fall of each year after the field season has ended and the tentative budget for the upcoming year has been received. Several methods will be used to disseminate this report to the recreation customer. First, a letter containing the status report will be sent to each member of the Customer Advisory Group. They will be asked to share this information with members of their recreation interest groups. Second, newspaper articles containing the status report will be run locally to inform a wider group of recreators. Finally, the status report will be included in Appendix N of this plan for future reference. In this way, plan implementation will be closely monitored and frequently shared with the recreation customer.

#### **5. Periodic Update Schedule:**

This Customer Driven Recreation Development 5-Year Action Plan will be updated following the completion of the items listed in the 5-Year Implementation Schedule on page 16 under FY'91. These are the items in the third year of the current plan. The update is to be completed two years before the current plan expires. This guarantees that the priorities for the next 5 years will exist in time to influence budget requests for that 5 years. The next plan will not go into effect, however, until the entire current 5-year plan has been completed.

A new advisory group will be formed to assist with the update. Planning guidelines for this future advisory group will be the long range goals developed in this plan (See Appendix B and I), along with a list of projects that did not get funded from those listed in Appendix G. The new advisory group will be informed that the items in Appendix G that were not funded were



considered important projects by the previous advisory group. As such, these projects should be given serious consideration. Over time, however, recreation needs do change. Therefore, if other recreation projects are determined by the new group to be more appropriate at the time of the update, they should be emphasized over the old unfunded projects. The group will also be given a list of projects that the Forest Service currently considers as important. This list will be provided for the same two reasons as it was provided for in the 1989-1993 plan: 1) To act as "brain ticklers". 2) To determine the importance the customer places on the ideas proposed by the Forest Service.

Through the use of this periodic update, directed by the longer range planning guidelines, the Salida Ranger District will maintain a current Customer Driven Recreation Development 5-Year Action Plan. This plan will develop recreation facilities in a consistent and focused direction while being responsive to the needs of the recreating customer.

## E. DISCUSSION

### **1. Forest Plan Compliance:**

The Land and Resource Management Plan for the Pike and San Isabel National Forests; Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands divides the forest into various management areas. Each area designation emphasizes a different aspect of forest management in order to obtain the desired management goals of that area. Each project proposed by the advisory group must be compared with the management goals of the management area in which it falls. This will ensure that any proposed project would meet the goals of the Forest Plan before it could be implemented. If it does not meet these goals, it will be dropped from consideration, or the procedure to amend the Forest Plan will be started if Forest Service management finds great customer need for the project. A comparison chart follows. (See Appendix J - For a more indepth analysis of how each project complies with the Forest Plan).

The following Forest Plan Compliance Chart shows that all of the proposed projects are in compliance with the management goals of the forest plan. Therefore, all of the projects can be completed as proposed. There is no need to drop any proposed projects or amend the Forest Plan.

## 2. Forest Plan Compliance Chart:

<u>PRIORITY</u>	<u>PROJECT DESIG.*</u>	<u>FOREST PLAN MANAGEMENT AREA</u>	<u>DOES PROJECT COMPLY WITH FOREST PLAN?</u>
1	A2	4D	YES
2	D9	2B	YES
3	A10	2B	YES
4	D1	2B	YES
5	A8	2B	YES
6	A7	2B	YES
7	B1	2B	YES
8	A6	2B	YES
9	D8	4D	YES
10	A1	4D	YES
11	D6	6B/4D	YES/YES
12	D3	2B/4D	YES/YES
13	D5	2B	YES
14	A4	2A	YES
15	A5	6B	YES
	D7	2A/9B	YES/YES
16	B2	9B	YES
17	A9	2B/4D	YES/YES
18	D2	PRIVATE LAND, NOT POSSIBLE.	
19	D10	2B/4B	YES/YES

\* For the list of project designations see Appendix G.

## 3. Conformance with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Guidelines:

ROS guidelines have been developed and mapped for the Salida Ranger District (See Appendix K). This was done to establish guidelines so that certain types of recreation opportunities could be developed in certain areas. To ensure that the projects proposed by the advisory group do not change the recreation goals of a certain area, causing a negative impact on the users already there, the following evaluation table was completed:

4. ROS Compliance Chart

<u>PRIORITY</u>	<u>PROJECT DESIG.*</u>	<u>ROS**</u>	<u>DOES PROJECT FIT ROS?</u>
1	A2	RN	YES
2	D9	RN	YES
3	A10	RN	YES
4	D1	RN	YES
5	A8	RN	YES
6	A7	RN	YES
7	B1	RN	YES
8	A6	RN	YES
9	D8	PRIVATE LAND	
10	A1	RN	YES
	C1	NOT SITE SPECIFIC ENOUGH TO CATEGORIZE	
11	D6	RN	YES
12	D3	SPM	YES
13	D5	RN	YES
14	A4	RN	YES
15	A5	RN	YES
	C2	NOT SITE SPECIFIC ENOUGH TO CATEGORIZE	
	D7	RN	YES
16	B2	RN & SPM	NO
17	A9	RN	YES
	D11	RN	YES
18	D2	PRIVATE LAND	
19	D10	SPM	YES

\* For the list of project designations see Appendix G.

\*\* For definitions of ROS classes see Appendix L and the 1986 ROS Book for further details.

According to the above table, all projects further the goals for the ROS classification in which they fall, except priority #16. This is project B2, or closing the 4WD road up Grassy Gulch. This area is being developed for a roaded natural or a semi-primitive motorized recreation experience. The reason proposed for closing this road was that hikers seeking solitude do not like the fact that 4WD vehicles can get to within 1/2 mile of the Ptarmigan Lake and therefore have easy access to the lake. However, this road does fit in with the management goals of area. Since the reason for closing the road is not due to environmental damage, this project will not be completed without further study to determine if this area needs to be reclassified as semi-primitive non motorized under the ROS system.

#### 5. Linkage to the total Forest Program:

The projects listed in the 5-year implementation schedule will be linked to the total forest program using several methods.

First, small projects that will not require special funding to complete will be planned and completed on schedule using annual district recreation funds.

A second way a project will be linked to the forest program is by submitting it for funding through the capital investment program (CIP). This is a program the Forest Service has for funding new construction projects.

The third technique that can be used to link the project to the forest program is by submitting it for funding through the challenge cost share program. If the project has backing from outside the Forest Service in the form of contributed labor, materials, or dollars, it will make a good challenge cost share project. The projects proposed by the customer advisory group have wide public support. Because of this, these projects will be easier to get an organization from outside the Forest Service to contribute labor, materials, or dollars. Therefore, the challenge cost share program should prove to be an excellent way to get some of these projects funded.

#### F. SUMMARY

Through the use of the Nominal Group Technique, this Recreation Development 5-Year Action Plan represents the customer's recreation needs or is "customer driven." It will help direct the development of recreation facilities on the Salida Ranger District in several ways:

1. The 5-Year Implementation Schedule on page 16 will direct the development of specific recreation facilities over the next 5 years.



2. Appendix H provides a list of projects desired by the recreation customer that will take special funding, approval, or extensive work to complete. This provides a list of development ideas to be considered when funding long range, multi-year projects, and also some goals to work towards.

3. Appendix I provides a list of long range recreation guidelines or philosophies that can be used as local, more specific recreation guidelines in future planning efforts. The Long Range Planning Guidelines for Recreation Development on the Salida Ranger District (Appendix B) should be used in conjunction with the Appendix I guidelines.

This Customer Driven Recreation Development 5-Year Action Plan will help guide the future of recreation on the Salida Ranger District. Before any project from the 5-Year Implementation Schedule is begun, however, several other factors must be considered. These are:

1. The recreation forester will evaluate each project using his/her recreation and land management background to ensure that the project will meet the overall goals of the District.
2. Projects that are economically favorable for the Forest Service to complete will be emphasized.
3. The recreation forester will also consider the probability a project has of being funded. If a project has no chance of being funded, time should not be wasted in proposing it.
4. Current outside management actions must also be considered. If a project will lead the district recreation program in a non productive direction due to the effect an outside management concern will have on the District recreation needs, it should not be implemented. Some of the current management actions that may change the future recreation needs of the Salida Ranger District include:
  1. The proposal by the State of Colorado to designate a linear state park along the Arkansas River.
  2. The plans by the State of Colorado Highway Division to widen, and add lanes to the major highways that bring tourists into the Arkansas River Valley.
  3. The paving of the Cottonwood Pass Road through the Salida Ranger District by the Federal Highway Department.
  4. The proposed construction of a high voltage power line from Taylor Reservoir to Buena Vista through Cottonwood Pass. If constructed as proposed, this power corridor will negatively impact a highly used recreation area.



5. The construction of a new county fairgrounds which includes facilities capable of handling large group meetings. This has already resulted in the Good Sam Club signing an agreement to hold their state-wide Samborees at the fairgrounds for the next 3 years.
6. The construction of new industrial parks in Salida and Buena Vista will be bringing new, larger industry to the area.

All of the above outside management actions (a-f) will have impacts on the current and future needs of the Salida Ranger District Recreation Program. Therefore they must affect recreation development planning.

Other management actions may develop throughout the 5-year planning period. Before a project is implemented, all outside management actions that currently exist must be considered.

The Nominal Group Technique (NGT), as outlined in the book Group Techniques for Program Planning by Delbecq et al., proved to be an excellent technique for obtaining input from a large sample of the recreation customer in a useable, orderly fashion. I highly recommend that it be used more frequently in Forest Service planning processes requiring customer input. The advantages and disadvantages are listed here for reference:

Advantages:

1. Many new, creative ideas are developed by the customer advisory group through the NGT process. Also, these ideas are ranked into order of priority by the group members when the input process is final.
2. NGT is an excellent way to develop contacts in the community with local recreators. Some of the group members now stop in to share their ideas on recreation needs on the district.
3. Due to the way that NGT is structured, the quieter and more vocal members all have an equal opportunity for input. No one member dominates the meeting.
4. The group members develop an ownership in the plan and may actually assist in the accomplishment of the plan.
5. A wide number and range of the recreation public is contacted in an orderly fashion through the NGT process.

Disadvantages:

1. It is difficult to get the entire customer advisory group to agree on an evening when they all can meet. The group is most likely composed of extremely busy, involved people.
2. NGT customer input from recreators not living nearby is hard to get. In the process done on the Salida Ranger District, the Chamber of Commerce provides this input. A more complete picture of needs of the out of town recreator could be obtained by having a representative in the advisory group. If someone from one of the major metropolitan areas (ie. Colorado Springs, or Pueblo) that uses the Salida District for recreation could be involved, a more complete input would be received.

G. LITERATURE CITED

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APPENDIX B

LONG RANGE PLANNING GUIDELINES FOR  
RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ON THE SALIDA RANGER DISTRICT  
(Handout at Meeting #1)

(Derived from a Preliminary Draft document entitled "Strategies in Recreation Management for the next decade [1987-97] on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests-Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands")

- 1) Because the population is aging and becoming increasingly urbanized, a deliberate effort will be made to improve access to and throughout the Forest to accommodate the older and the handicapped user.
- 2) In recent years, and for the foreseeable future, the District Recreation Budget has been somewhat restrictive. In order to operate within these restricted budgets, efficiency in operation must be concentrated on. Wherever possible, campgrounds should be concentrated in easily managed blocks, and not spread so far apart that administering them is more expensive and difficult. This results in the following guidelines:
  - a. The construction of any new sites should be in areas that have demonstrated a need that cannot be satisfied by the private sector or other recreation provider. In reconstruction, improvement of health and safety features and protection of the resources should be the main consideration. Projects which reflect these goals will be more easy to get funding for under present tight budgets. (Keep in mind that the Salida District must compete for recreation funding with the other districts on the Pike&San Isabel National Forests, and the more favorable our projects look, the more likely they are to be funded. The pie is only so big, and the Salida District tries to get the biggest piece it can by submitting the most favorable looking projects possible.)
  - b. In areas where there is heavy day use and a demand for camping facilities, and private lands are available, an effort will be made to encourage the private sector build and operate recreational facilities. The Forest Service does not wish to compete with private industry.
- 3) Recent reconstruction and paving of part of the Cottonwood Pass road between Buena Vista and Taylor Park under the Forest Highway Program, has made this area readily accessible to visitors from the Front Range. The District should aim towards providing opportunities and facilities in this area to prepare for the large increase in visitor use this area will receive in the near future.
- 4) The Salida Ranger District is rich in cultural resources, particularly historical. Thought should be given towards interpreting some of these cultural resources to the recreating customer.



5) The dependable snow conditions found in the Sawatch Range lends itself to winter sports activities such as cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. The District should develop these activities and also encourage and work with the private sector, interested groups, or volunteers to cooperatively provide and maintain the opportunities for these activities.

6) Goals of Federal, State, and Local Governments according to the 1985 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP):

a. Federal Government-Primary provider of non-motorized backcountry camping, motorized backcountry camping, car camping, hiking, and cross country skiing. The USDA Forest Service falls into this category, and will attempt to emphasize these types of recreation in its development.

b. State Government-Primary provider of boat fishing, shore fishing, river fishing, and hunting.

c. Local Entities-Primary provider for basketball, baseball, playgrounds, and tennis.

APPENDIX C

**EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES - SALIDA RANGER DISTRICT**  
 (Handout at Meeting #1)

CAMPGROUNDS

Collegiate Peaks Campground	-- 56 units	FEE
Cottonwood Lake Campground	-- 28 units	FEE
Mt. Princeton Campground	-- 17 units	FEE
Chalk Lake Campground	-- 21 units	FEE
Cascade Campground	-- 23 units	FEE
Iron City Campground	-- 15 units	FEE PROPOSED
Angel of Shavano Campground	-- 20 units	FEE
North Fork Reservoir CG	-- 8 units	NO FEE
Garfield Campground	-- 11 units	FEE
Monarch Park Campground	-- 36 units	FEE
O'Haver Lake Campground	-- 28 units	FEE
Coaldale Campground	-- 11 units	NO FEE
Hayden Campground	-- 11 units	NO FEE

PICNIC GROUNDS

Cottonwood Lake PG

Angel of Shavano Group Picnic & Camping Area--FEE-By reservation only.

Shavano Picnic Area-- (on road to North Fork Reservoir-Old Angel of Shavano CG)

TRAILS

<u>TRAIL No.</u>	<u>Trail Name</u>	<u>Length</u>
617	Fourmile	3.0
618	Salt Creek	2.6
1336	Rainbow	62.5 <-Motorized use allowed.
1402	Bushnell Lakes	2.6
1403	Stout Creek Lakes	3.7
1404	West Creek Lakes	3.0
1405	Hunt's Lake	3.5
1408	Starvation Creek	4.7
1409	Little Cochetopa	3.5
1411	Pass Creek	3.5 <-Motorized use allowed.
1412	Greens Creek	6.7 <-Motorized use allowed.
1417	Waterdog Lakes	1.6
1420	Hunt Lake	2.3
1422	Hancock Lake	2.5
1427	Wagon Loop	1.8

1428	Mt. Shavano	3.6	
429	Browns Creek	5.8	
1430	Little Browns Creek	4.0	
1433	Agnes Vail Falls	0.5	
1436	Poplar Gulch	6.5	<--Motorized use allowed.
1437	Upper Pomeroy Lake	1.5	
1438	Alpine Tunnel	0.3	
1439	Tunnel Lake	4.4	
1442	Browns Pass	3.6	
1443	Hartenstein	1.0	
1444	Ptarmigan Lake	3.3	
1446	Spout Lake-Lost Lake	2.5	
1448	Kroenke Lake	5.5	
1449	Horn Fork Basin	5.4	
1776	Colorado Trail	52.2	<---Motorized use allowed
TOTAL=====		207.6	on several sections

#### WINTER CROSS COUNTRY SKI/SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

North Cottonwood (Extension of North Cottonwood Road)  
 Middle Cottonwood (Cottonwood Pass Road)  
 South Cottonwood (West from Cottonwood Lake)  
 St. Elmo to Tincup Pass  
 St. Elmo to Hancock  
 Evans/Rush Memorial Trail (Browns Creek Area)  
 North Fork (from Angel of Shavano CG to North Fork Reservoir)  
 Fooses Creek  
 Monarch Park  
 Old Monarch Pass  
 Marshall Pass

#### DEVELOPED TRAILHEADS

North Cottonwood - Colorado Trail & Kroenke Lake Trail - Bulletin Board  
 - 10 Car Parking  
  
 Avalanche - Colorado Trail on Cottonwood Pass Road - Bulletin Board  
 - 50 Car Parking  
 - Outhouse  
  
 Denny Creek - Denny Creek Trail - Bulletin Board  
 - 13 Car Parking  
 - Outhouse



Ptarmigan Lake - Ptarmigan Lake Trail	- Bulletin Board
	- 10 Car Parking
	- Outhouse
South Cottonwood - Colorado Trail	- Bulletin Board
	- 5 Car Parking
Chalk Creek - Colorado Trail	- Bulletin Board
	- 5 Car Parking
Browns Creek - Wagon Loop Trail & Colorado Trail	- Bulletin Board
	- 8 Car Parking
	- Outhouse
	- Horse Corral
Angel of Shavano - Colorado Trail	- Bulletin Board
	- 5 Car Parking
Fooses Creek - Colorado Trail	- Bulletin Board
	- 3 Car Parking

FISHING LAKES WITH DEVELOPMENTS

O'Haver Lake  
 Cottonwood Lake  
 Chalk Lake

Shirley Fisherman/Winter Recreation Site (outhouse & parking/camping area)

APPENDIX D

RECREATION PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED BY '88 & FUTURE PROPOSALS BY FOREST SERVICE  
(Handout at Meeting #1)

The plan which you are helping to develop will begin to affect recreation on the Salida Ranger District in FY '89 which starts October 1, 1988. The following projects are proposed by the Salida Ranger District for completion during FY '88, and should exist before the plan you are currently working on goes into effect. These projects are listed so you will know the full extent of the recreation facilities that are available on the Salida Ranger District. They are:

1. **Monarch Park Handicapped Fishing Access** - Parking, access ramps, and bridges across dams at beaver ponds to allow wheelchair fishing.
2. **Bear Lake & Kroenke Lake Trail Work** - Trail work to upgrade these two trails.
3. **Horse Corral at Avalanche Trailhead** - Located at the intersection of the Colorado Trail and the Cottonwood Pass Road.
4. **Cascade Campground Electrical** - Install electric hookup to campground host site and install light at fee station.
5. **Cascade Campground Handicapped Access** - Construct ramp up to outhouse along with improve several campsites to allow handicapped access.
6. **Iron City Water** - Develop water at Iron City. This will allow Iron City to become a fee campground.
7. **Tree Planting** - Trees will be planted in campgrounds in areas that are beat out.

The following is a list of possible projects for future construction. These projects are presented as ideas only. Use one of these in your list of proposals if you like it. If not, disregard them. They are listed here for two reasons:

1. They will hopefully act as "brain ticklers" and get the creative ideas flowing.
2. They are projects that the Salida Ranger District has considered as valid projects. We would like to get customer comment on the merit of these ideas. This will be done by whether or not they are included in the list of proposed ideas that you turn in. Please do not feel pressured to use these projects, and please do propose your own ideas.

The project list is as follows:

1. **Cottonwood Lake Trail** - Trail from Cottonwood Lake Picnic Area around back (south) side of lake to Cottonwood Lake Campground. For hiking, fishing, viewing wildlife.
2. **Chalk Lake Fisherman's Parking** - Increase size of parking lot.
3. **Chalk Creek Bridge** - Bridge from Chalk Lake Campground across Chalk Creek to Chalk Lake.
4. **O'Haver Lake Campground** - Roadwork, increase some spur lengths, adjust spur angles to make them accessible to larger RV's.
5. **Collegiate Peaks Campground** - Widen internal road to allow two way traffic. This necessary due to new loop added in 1986 which causes two way traffic on a narrow one way road. Pave internal roads but not parking pads. The paving done as dust abatement to get ready for the large increase in campground use due to the paving of Cottonwood Pass.
6. **Pave Hill Below Cascade Campground** - Very steep hill. Will increase accessibility to Cascade Campground, St. Elmo, Iron City Campground, etc. for large RV's, etc. Would also include using chemical to keep dust down on dirt roads in Mt. Princeton, Chalk Lake, and Cascade Campgrounds.
7. **Ponds in Castle Rock & Columbine Gulch** (North of Bassam Park) - Develop parking and access to these ponds so State can stock for put and take fishing.
8. **Ponds in Bull Gulch** (located in Herring Park) - Develop pond, access, and parking so State can stock for put and take fishing.
9. **Relocations on Colorado Trail** - Raspberry Gulch relocation-(between Chalk Creek and Brown's Creek-bring trail around face of mountain to the east rather than up and over the present steep stretch through Raspberry Gulch.)
10. **Interpretation of Historical Sites** - Signing to tell visitors about history of old mining sites, townsites, etc.



11. **Camping Area for Hikers at Chalk Creek Colorado Trail Trailhead** - This would consist of an outhouse, fire rings, and tent pads. This project would give hikers of the Colorado Trail a definite camping spot before or after hitting the 3 mile hike to the north of Chalk Creek that is on private land where camping cannot be allowed.

12. **Handicapped Fishing Access** - At Cottonwood Lake and O'Haver Lake.

13. **Continental Divide Trail** - This trail is in the early planning stages. It will eventually be a trail from Canada to Mexico along the Continental Divide. Preliminary studies on route locations to determine the best location for the trail would be done at this time.

ITEMS FOR THOUGHT:

1. Are there any signing needs that the Salida District is not addressing when it comes to the area of expertise that you represent?
2. Are there any areas where handicapped access is needed when it comes to the area of expertise that you represent?
3. Are there any information services needed that would help people learn about the facilities that the Salida District has to offer in your area of expertise. ie.:

Something that the locally published Summer Fun/Winter Fun publications need to include that they don't?

A Recreation Opportunity Guide Sheet that should be developed to better inform the recreation visitor (these are the information sheets that we hand out to visitors that are specific to one trail, one campground, one interest, etc.).

4. The Salida Ranger District currently has a Visitor Information Trailer that has not been used for the past several years. It is located on Monarch Pass next to the Monarch Crest Visitor Center and Tramway Building. Do you see a need for this trailer to be manned during the summer in order to hand out information on the National Forest such as forest maps, Recreation Opportunity Guide Sheets, etc?, or is the District Office here in Salida sufficient for handing out information on the National Forest? Keep in mind that money spent to man and operate this trailer must be obtained from somewhere in the recreation budget. We will talk about this project at our second meeting.

APPENDIX E

PROPOSED ADVISORY GROUP PROJECTS  
(Compiled from individual group member's project lists)  
(Handout at meeting #2)

<u>PROPOSED PROJECT</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>
A. NEW FACILITIES	
1. Outhouse in big hunter camping area just below junction of Marshall Pass Road and road to O'Haver Lake Campground.	\$16,000
2. Develop designated camping sites along the road in Upper Poncha Creek past the Silver Creek Road. Would include an outhouse.	\$27,000
3. Fisherman parking on Big Cottonwood Creek near junction of Wolf Creek.	\$ 2,000
4. Camping at Big Cottonwood at designated sites only.	\$ 8,000
5. Picnic area and outhouse near Whitehorn on the Ute Trail - Whitehorn - Gribble Park - Wellsville Loop Drive.	\$24,500
6. Several picnic tables near the falls on the North Fork Road on the right hand side of road just above Angel of Shavano Campground.	\$30,000
7. Picnic area and outhouse at Hancock.	\$21,500
8. Enlarge parking area at Shirley Site so snowmobilers have room to park their trailers and leave room for XC skiers and Snow play people to park too.	\$15,500

9. Put a covered entrance on the key winter use outhouses so that snow will not pile up against the door preventing the door from being opened. The key outhouses are: Shirley Site, and the Avalanche Trailhead (at the Colorado Trail on Cottonwood Pass Road). \$ 3,200

10. Develop designated camping sites along the road in Upper Cottonwood Creek above Cottonwood Lake. Would include outhouse. \$35,000

#### B. ROADS

1. Road to North Fork Lake could use maintenance to make the lake, campground, and picnic area available by passenger car. Don't want road blacktopped, but just suitable maintenance for passenger cars. \$ 4,000

2. Close the 4 wheel drive road up Grassy Gulch. \$ 300

#### C. SIGNING

1. Sign trails that are open/closed to motorcycle use and open/closed to nonmotorized mountain bike use (mountain bikes permitted everywhere except for the wilderness). Make motorcycle trailheads easier to find by better signing so motorcyclists do not knowingly break the law by riding in a nonpermitted area. \$ 2,000

2. Post interpretive signs explaining the many years it takes to grow the alpine and desert plants as well as trees in this region. This would discourage folks from disturbing them. \$ 2,000

#### D. TRAILS

1. Trail and several picnic tables to series of falls on the left side of North Fork Road about 1/2 way up to North Fork Reservoir. \$ 4,000



2. Maintain trail from St. Elmo to Iron Chest Mine - Problem in that most of the land the trail crosses is no longer Forest Service land. It is private due to people staking mining claims. Forest Service can't spend money on private land.
3. Clean up the old Calico Pass route from Shavano up Cyclone Creek just to the east of Calico Mountain, through high altitude pass (12,560') and down stream that feeds into Grizzly Lake. Down Grizzly Gulch to St. Elmo. \$ 9,400
4. Clean up the old North Fork Pass from top of North Fork west through high altitude pass (12,520') between Sewanee Peak and Pomeroy Mountain intersecting with the Chalk Creek Pass Route. \$ 3,800
5. X-C Ski Trail developed in and around Cascade Campground. Short trails could be developed out of the campground or tracks set in the campground road loop. \$ 365
6. Trail designated for mountain bikes in the Aspen Ridge Area. \$ 4,600
7. Mountain bike trail - Hancock up Alpine Tunnel Road, over divide between tunnel portals, down Tunnel Gulch and back to Hancock via Hancock Pass. \$ 2,700
8. Develop Cross Country Ski Trail (no snowmobiles) on the road that heads up Wildcat Gulch from St. Elmo (this is the road that continues from the west end of main street in St. Elmo). \$ 650
9. Develop an educational nature trail near a major campground. Short, less than 1 mile with signing that labels many of the plants and trees. Also, describe that many of the plants are very old and slow growing, ie. Pinyon Pine, so they should not be disturbed. Suggestion - could use as cross country ski trail in winter. Maybe tied in with Cascade or Collegiate Peaks Campground. \$ 5,800
10. Construct a trail linking Lower Pomeroy Lake to Grizzly Lake. This would create a loop trail (St. Elmo, Romley, Lower Pomeroy Lake, Grizzly Lake, St. Elmo). \$ 3,500
11. Develop a cross country ski trail from St. Elmo to Alpine on the back road. This is a good beginner trail. \$ 650

APPENDIX F  
(Completed during meeting #3)

VOTING TALLY TO RANK PROJECTS BY PRIORITY

Category	#	Rankings	Rank Totals	Priority	\$ Values
A (NEW FACILITIES)	1	1,5,6,7	19	10	16,000
	2	6,9,9,9,5	38	1	27,000
	3	3	3	19	2,000
	4	4,7	11	14	8,000
	5	5,5	10	15	24,500
	6	5,3,8,6	22	8	30,000
	7	8,3,1,5,9	26	6	21,500
	8	3,1,8,3,7,5	27	5	15,500
	9	2,6	8	17	3,200
	10	9,3,9,2,9	32	3	35,000
<hr/>					
B (ROADS)	1	5,9,1,9	24	7	4,000
	2	1,2,1,3,2	9	16	300
<hr/>					
C (SIGNING)	1	6,4,1,7,1	19	10	2,000
	2	2,7,1	10	15	2,000
<hr/>					
D (TRAILS)	1	4,7,8,4,5	28	4	4,000
	2	5	5	18	-----
	3	6,4,7	17	12	9,400
	4	0	0	--	3,800
	5	8,6	14	13	365
	6	5,4,2,4,3	18	11	4,600
	7	3,4,3	10	15	2,700
	8	6,2,7,2,4	21	9	-----
	9	7,8,8,4,8	35	2	5,800
	10	3	3	19	3,500
	11	8	8	17	650

APPENDIX G

(From rankings developed by advisory group-see table in Appendix F)

ADVISORY GROUP PROJECTS - RANKED

<u>PROPOSED PROJECT</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>
<u>PRIORITY PROJECT</u>	
1. (A2)* Develop designated camping sites along the road in Upper Poncha Creek past the Silver Creek Road. Would include an outhouse.	\$27,000
2. (D9)* Develop an educational nature trail near a major campground. Short, less than 1 mile with signing that labels many of the plants and trees. Also, describe that many of the plants are very old and slow growing, ie. Pinyon Pine, so they should not be disturbed. Suggestion - could use as cross country ski trail in winter. Maybe tied in with Cascade or Collegiate Peaks Campground, or on Colorado Trail at major trail head like Chalk Creek or Angel of Shavano.	\$ 5,800
3. (A10)* Develop designated camping sites along the road in Upper Cottonwood Creek above Cottonwood Lake. Would include an outhouse.	\$35,000
4. (D1)* Trail and several picnic tables to Upper North Fork Falls on the left side of North Fork Road about 1/2 way up to North Fork Reservoir.	\$ 4,000
5. (A8)* Enlarge parking area at Shirley Site so snowmobilers have room to park their trailers while leaving room for XC skiers and snow play people to park too. Includes rebuilding the outhouse that was vandalized during the summer of '87.	\$15,500
6. (A7)* Picnic area and outhouse at Hancock.	\$21,500
7. (B1)* Road to North Fork Lake could use maintenance to make the lake, campground, and picnic area available by passenger car. Don't want road blacktopped, but just suitable maintenance for passenger cars.	\$ 4,000
8. (A6)* North Fork Picnic Area & Scenic Overlook.	\$30,000



- |               |  |          |
|---------------|--|----------|
| 9.<br>(D8)*   | Develop Cross Country Ski Trail (no snowmobiles) on the road that heads up Wildcat Gulch from St. Elmo (this is the road that continues from the west end of main street in St. Elmo). PRIVATE LAND-THIS CAN'T BE COMPLETED. WILL SUBSTITUTE D11, FROM ST. ELMO TO ALPINE ON THE BACK ROAD.                            | \$ 650   |
| 10.<br>(A1)*  | Outhouse in big hunter camping area (Gray's Creek) just below junction of Marshall Pass Road and road to O'Haver Lake Campground.  | \$16,000 |
| (C1)*         | Sign trails that are open/closed to motorcycle use and open/closed to nonmotorized mountain bicycle use (mountain bikes permitted everywhere except for the wilderness). Make motorcycle trailheads easier to find by better signing so motorcyclists do not knowingly break the law by riding in a nonpermitted area. | \$ 2,000 |
| 11.<br>(D6)*  | Trail designated for mountain bicycles in the Aspen Ridge Area. This trail would be on existing roads.   | \$ 4,600 |
| 12.<br>(D3)*  | Calico Pass Trail  | \$ 9,400 |
| 13.<br>(D5)*  | Cascade Campground Cross Country Ski Trail   | \$ 365   |
| 14.<br>(A4)*  | Big Cottonwood Trailhead and Fisherman's Parking   | \$ 8,000 |
| 15.<br>(A5)*  | Whitehorn Picnic Area  | \$24,500 |
| (C2)*         | Interpretive signs-protect alpine and dry climate plants as they grow very slowly.   | \$ 2,000 |
| (D7)*         | Alpine Tunnel-Hancock Pass Mountain Bicycle Trail.   | \$ 2,700 |
| 16.<br>(B2)*  | Close 4 wheel drive road up Grassy Gulch.  | \$ 300   |
| 17.<br>(A9)*  | Shirley and Avalanche Trailhead Outhouses-Covered entrance for snow.   | \$ 3,200 |
| (D11)*        | St. Elmo to Alpine Cross Country Ski Trail.  | \$ 650   |
| 18.<br>(D2)*  | Trail from St. Elmo to Iron Chest Mine-PRIVATE LAND, NOT POSSIBLE.   |          |
| 19.<br>(D10)* | Trail from Lower Pomeroy Lake to Grizzly Lake Trail.   | \$ 3,500 |

\* For the list of project designations see Appendix G.

APPENDIX H  
MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS DERIVED FROM ADVISORY GROUP INPUT

The following is a list of projects proposed by the advisory group that cannot be scheduled for completion in this planning effort. These projects will either take special funding, approval, or extensive work to complete. They are listed here as longer range projects to work towards as time and funding allows.

1. **Recreation Opportunity Guide (ROG)** sheets delineating trails open to motorcycles.
2. **Motorcycle Etiquette Brochure** - telling motorcyclists proper way to ride trails, and approach hikers and horses. The brochure could also mention proper etiquette for horse riders and hikers as they are approached by motorcyclists. It may also discourage trail riding during archery and muzzle loader season. Motorcycle associations such as Rocky Mountain Trials Association and Rocky Mountain Trail Riders Association can be tapped to assist in funding such a project.
3. **Adopt-A-Trail** - The Rocky Mountain Trials Association (low impact motorcycle riders) have shown an interest in adopting the section of the Rainbow Trail from Salida to the District boundary east of Howard so they can maintain and improve its condition. The District should begin the process of signing them up under the Adopt-A-Trail program.
4. **Stocking Fish in Ponds** - coordinate with the State Department of Fish and Game to stock the ponds in the Seven Mile and Four Mile Creek areas.
5. **Cross Country Ski and Snowmobile Planning** - District must begin planning process to determine which trails are open for cross country skiing, which are open to snowmobiling, and which will be shared. This process must involve customer input through a series of public meetings.
6. **Concessionaire Agreement for Backcountry Shelters** - Dick Scar has expressed interest in developing a system of backcountry shelters called yurts. This could be used to open up opportunities for hut to hut cross country skiing, or for hiking the Colorado Trail. In either case, the yurt system would make travel easier as the skier/hiker would not need to pack such a heavy load.
7. **Travel Plan Map** - a single map is needed indicating, through color coding, various recreational uses including cross country skiing, 4 wheel drive, hiking, mountain bikes, snowmobiling, motorcycles, horses, etc.
8. **Orienteering Map** - is needed. This would be a fine detail topographic map for use in the sport of orienteering. An orienteering map was prepared by the Rocky Mountain Orienteering Club for an area on the Leadville Ranger District in 1977. An agreement with this Orienteering Club to do one on the Salida Ranger District is a possibility. Few of these maps are available in the State. If one was developed for the Buena Vista-Salida Area, it would attract orienteering enthusiasts, and could also be used by schools for outdoor study programs.

APPENDIX I

Long Range Goals or Guidelines Derived from Advisory Group Input

1. Strive to keep areas open to motorcycles that are currently open.
2. Strive to keep areas open to 4WD vehicles that are currently open.
3. Establish cross country ski trails with an emphasis on areas that hold snow longer.
4. Improve signing, education, and enforcement of vehicle closures.
5. Mark trailheads more clearly so they are easier to find. Rainbow trail particularly.



APPENDIX J

Compliance of Proposed Projects with Forest Plan

Management Area 2A - Management emphasis is for semiprimitive motorized recreation opportunities such as snowmobiling, 4-wheel driving, and motorcycling both on and off roads and trails. Motorized travel may be restricted or seasonally prohibited to designated routes to protect physical and biological resources.

- a. Dispersed Recreation Management - Emphasize semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunities.
- b. Recreation Management (Private and Other Public Sector) - Encourage development of private sector recreation oriented support services.

Proposed Projects Occurring in Management Area 2A -

1. Big Cottonwood Trailhead and Fisherman's Parking - Priority #14 - This project meets the management area 2A prescription well. It allows a destination for the semiprimitive motorized recreation opportunities. It also aids the local private sector recreation oriented support services by providing an additional recreation facility to keep recreationists in the area longer.

2. Alpine Tunnel-Hancock Pass Mountain Bicycle Trail - Priority #15 - This project does not directly increase semi-primitive motorized recreation, but it does not conflict with the goals of this area.

Management Area 2B - Management emphasis is for rural and roaded natural recreation opportunities.

- a. Dispersed Recreation Management - Provide roaded natural or rural recreation opportunities along Forest arterial, collector and local roads which are open to public motorized travel. Manage recreation use to provide moderate to high incidence of contact with other groups and individuals.
- b. Recreation Management - Private and Other Public Sector - Encourage development of private sector recreation oriented support services.

Proposed Projects Occurring in Management Area 2B -

1. Educational Nature Trail Near Major Campground - Priority #2 - This project fits in well with roaded natural or rural recreation opportunities. It also aids the local private sector recreation oriented support services by providing an additional recreation facility to keep recreationists in the area longer.

2. Designate Camping Sites Along the Road in Upper Cottonwood Creek - Priority #3 - This project fits in well with roaded natural recreation opportunities and will help prevent resource damage by eliminating off-road vehicle travel and providing restroom facilities.

3. Upper North Fork Falls Trail and Picnic Tables - Priority #4 - This trail complements the roaded natural recreation experience well. There will be moderate to high incidence of contact with other groups and individuals. It also aids private sector recreation by providing more facilities to hold the recreators in the area longer.
4. Enlarge Snowmobile/Fishing Parking Area at Shirley Site - Priority #5 - This parking area complements the roaded natural recreation experience well. It allows for more orderly, safer parking at a high use recreation site.
5. Picnic Area and Outhouse at Hancock - Priority #6 - This picnic area compliments the roaded natural experience well. It provides a roadside picnic area in a high use area.
6. Maintenance on Road to North Fork Lake - Priority #7 - Road maintenance on this high use road fits the management area prescription of a roaded natural recreation experience perfectly.
7. North Fork Falls Picnic Area & Scenic Overlook - Priority #8 - This picnic area compliments the roaded natural experience well. The picnic area is close to the road and will be located in a high incidence of contact area.
8. Calico Pass Trail - Priority #12 - The development of this trail does not exactly match the recreation development goals for this area which are rural and roaded natural recreation. It will not allow a moderate to high incidence of contact with other users. Use on this trail will be lighter than this. The development of the trail will not, however, conflict with any of the goals of the 2B management area. Therefore, the trail could be developed in the 2B management Area.
9. Cascade Campground Cross Country Ski Trail - Priority #13 - The development of this trail will meet the recreation development goals for this area of rural and roaded natural recreation. It will allow a moderate to high incidence of contact with other users as the trail is short, close to the road, and would draw many cross country skiers.
10. Covered Entrance on Avalanche Trailhead Outhouse - Priority #17 - The development of this covered entrance to prevent snow from piling up against the door and making the outhouse unusable in the winter will meet the recreation development goals for this area of rural and roaded natural recreation. It is a facility with a moderate to high incidence of contact with other users.



11. Trail from Lower Pomeroy Lake to Grizzly Lake - Priority #19- This trail lies half in Management Area 2B and half in 4B. The part in 2B does not add to the roaded natural facilities, but there is no conflict with these uses to make the construction of this project contrary to the forest plan.

Management Area 4B - The goal in this management area is to optimize habitat capability and thus numbers of the species.

a. Dispersed Recreation Management - Manage human recreational activities so they do not conflict with habitat needs of selected indicator species. Semi-primitive nonmotorized, semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural and rural recreation opportunities can be provided.

Proposed Projects Occurring in Management Area 4B -

1. Calico Pass Trail - Priority #12 - The segment of the trail that lies in management area 4B will not receive heavy enough use to conflict with habitat needs of the goats and sheep that are present. This is a semi-primitive recreation opportunity. This use is therefore compatible with the goals of the management area.
2. Trail From Lower Pomeroy Lake to Grizzly Lake Trail - Priority #19- This trail is the same as Calico Pass Trail. The segment of the trail that lies in management area 4B will not receive heavy enough use to conflict with habitat needs of the goats and sheep that are present. This is also a semi-primitive recreation opportunity. This use is therefore compatible with the goals of the management area.

Management Area 6B - The emphasis in this management area is the grazing of livestock.

a. Dispersed Recreation Management - Semi-primitive nonmotorized, semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural and rural recreation opportunities can be provided.

Proposed Projects Occurring in Management Area 6B -

1. Mountain Bicycles in the Aspen Ridge Area - Priority #11 - The number and quality of roads in the Aspen Ridge Area provides an excellent opportunity for designation as mountain bicycle trails. This use would not negatively affect the emphasis on livestock grazing. The establishment of mountain bike trails also fits in with the recreation goals for dispersed recreation management in this management area.
2. Whitehorn Picnic Area - Priority #15 - This picnic area is small and use of the facility is localized. It would not adversely effect livestock grazing. This picnic area would fit in well with the roaded natural recreation goal for this management area.



Management Area 9B - The emphasis in this management area is on increased water yield through vegetation manipulation.

a. Dispersed Recreation Management - Semi-primitive nonmotorized, semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural and rural recreation opportunities can be provided. Semi-primitive recreation is the predominate recreation use. Motorized travel may be prohibited.

Proposed Projects Occurring in Management Area 9B -

1. Alpine Tunnel-Hancock Pass Mountain Bicycle Trail - Priority #15 - This use would not negatively affect the emphasis on increased water yield since the trail to be marked would follow roads and trails that already exist. Very little surface construction would be needed. This project would also fit in well with the goals for dispersed recreation management.

2. Close 4WD Road Up Grassy Gulch - Priority #16 - This project would fit in with the objectives of this management area.

Management Area 4D - General emphasis is on maintaining and improving aspen sites. Recreational opportunities available are semiprimitive nonmotorized and motorized or roaded natural. Some temporary or seasonal road and area use restrictions are implemented to prevent disturbance of wildlife or improve hunting and fishing quality.

a. Management of Developed Recreation Sites - Prohibit development of new developed recreation sites.

b. Dispersed Recreation Management - Prohibit motorized vehicle use off Forest System roads and trails (except snowmobiles operating on snow) where needed to protect soils, vegetation or specified wildlife habitat.

Proposed Projects Occurring in Management Area 4D -

1. Develop Designated Camping Sites - Upper Poncha Creek - Priority #1 - The management area prescription prohibits the development of new developed recreation sites. These camping sites already exist all along Poncha Creek, however. Because the use has not been controlled, erosion and human waste along the creek is lowering water quality and hence fishing quality. The hardening and defining of these sites is needed in order to stop this. This project will protect fishing quality. Therefore, this project meets the management area prescription goals well.

2. Outhouse at Gray's Creek - Priority #10 - The construction of this facility will prevent the depositing of human waste along Gray's Creek. This will prevent the deterioration of fishing quality and conform with the goals of the management area prescription.

3. Trail Designated for Mountain Bicycles in the Aspen Ridge Area - Priority #11 - This trail will be developed on existing roads only. Because of this, there will be no impact on the land. This use is therefore compatible with the management area goals.

4. Covered Entrance on the Shirley Site Outhouse - Priority #17 - Development of a covered entrance on the Shirley Winter Recreation Site outhouse to prevent snow from piling up against the door making winter use of the outhouse difficult, does meet the management area objectives of roaded natural.

5. St. Elmo to Alpine Cross Country Ski Trail - Priority #9 - This trail will be developed using an already existing road. Because of this, there will be no environmental impact. Therefore, the development of this project is possible in the 4D management area.

	PRIMITIVE (P)	SEMI-PRIMITIVE NONMOTORIZED (SPNM)	SEMI-PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED (SPM)	ROADED NATURAL (RN)	RURAL (R)	URBAN (U)
Experience Opportunity	Isolation from sights and sounds of humans. High degree challenge and risk.	Isolation from sights and sounds of humans. Independence. Moderate to high degree of challenge and risk.	Moderate isolation from sights and sounds of humans. Independence, self-reliance. Moderate degree of challenge and risk.	About equal opportunity to experience social contact or to experience isolation. Opportunity to test and practice outdoor skills in area of moderate risk and challenge.	High probability for social interaction. Outdoor skills generally not needed.	Continuous opportunity for social interaction, competitive setting.
Setting	Large area of unmodified natural environment. Few human induced restrictions.	Moderate to large sized natural or naturally appearing area. Minimum of restrictions.	Predominately natural appearing moderate to large size area. Motorized use permitted.	Predominately natural appearing environment. Resource modifications harmonize with environment.	Predominately modified environment. Resource modifications obvious.	Sights and sounds of man dominate environment.
Remoteness	Usually 3 miles from transportation corridor with motorized use.	1/2 mile from roads, trails, etc., with motorized use.	1/2 mile from gravel or single-lane paved roads.	1/2 mile from double-lane paved roads and railroads.	None	None
Evidence of Humans	Evidence of humans unnoticed by traveler. Structures very rare.	Modifications don't draw attention. Structures rare.	Modifications don't draw attention of motorized visitor. Other roads and trails obvious. Structures rare.	Modifications easily noticed. Other roads, trails, obvious. Structures scattered.	Modifications often dominate. Strong evidence of roads, parking lots. Structures readily apparent.	Structures dominated. Strong evidence of roads, parking lots, etc.
Social Setting	Less than 6 parties per day encountered on trails. Less than 3 parties visible from campsite.	6-15 parties per day encountered on trails. 6 or less parties visible at campsite.	15-30 parties per day contacted on trails. 10 or less parties at campsites.	30 + parties per day contacted on trails. More than 10 parties visible from camp-campsites.	Frequent to continuous contact with other parties.	Continuous contact with other parties common.
Managerial Setting	Controls primarily off-site.	On-site controls and regimentation subtle.	On-site controls and regimentation subtle.	On-site controls and regimentation obvious.	Regimentation and controls obvious and numerous.	Regimentation and controls obvious and numerous.
Trail Standard Grade Sustained Maximum Pitch	20% no limit	20% 30%	15% 25%	15% 20%	12% 15%	10% 15%
Clearing Height Width	8' 36"	8' 36"-48"	8' 36"-48"	8' 36"-48"	8' 48"+	8' 48"+
Tread Width	12"	12"-18"	18"	18"	18"-24"+	24"+
Surface	Natural, many rocks, downed logs.	Natural, spot gravel. Some rocks, downed logs.	Mostly natural. Sections of gravel surface. Roots, imbedded rocks in place.	Gravel, chips, surfacing, when necessary.	Gravel, chips, or paved.	Paved
Recreation Opportunity Guide Legend						



APPENDIX M

News Releases

## Salida Ranger looks for ideas on National Forest's future uses

Would you like to help influence the recreation facilities that are developed on the Salida Ranger District of the San Isabel National Forest over the next five years? If so, the Salida Ranger District is asking for your help.

An advisory group of local citizens with diverse recreation interests has been formed to help develop a plan which will list specific recreation projects to be developed over the coming five years.

According to recreation forester Grady McMahan, "We are asking the group to help us develop a list representing public needs in recreation over the next five years. Projects may range from repair

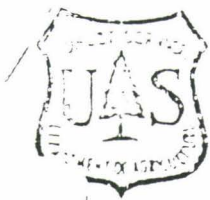
work on existing facilities to new projects as small as handicapped access ramps or as elaborate as an entire new trail."

The Salida Ranger District has put this advisory group together in an effort to make future recreation development better meet the needs of the public. Members of the advisory group are:

Dave Bowers, Heart of the Rockies Snowmobile Club, representing snowmobiling; Judy Green, Salida Chamber of Commerce, representing camper and out-of-town tourist; Peggy Hart, Senior Citizen Center activity coordinator, representing senior citizen recreation; Larry Lund, Colorado Trail Riders Association and Rocky Mountain

Trials Association, representing motorcyclists; Fred Rasmussen, Trout Unlimited, representing fishing; Dick Scar, Trailhead outdoor supply store in Buena Vista, representing wilderness and cross country skiing; Gladie Youngblood, "Skikers" local hiking group, representing hiking.

The Salida Ranger District is asking for input. They suggested contacting one of the members of the advisory group or Grady McMahan at the Salida Ranger District if there are any projects that a person would like considered for inclusion in the five-year recreation development plan. The deadline for submission of project ideas is Friday, Dec. 4.



# NEWS

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Release Date: 12/10/87

Contact: Grady A. McMahan

## INPUT CONTINUES FOR RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ON THE SALIDA RANGER DISTRICT

There is still time to influence the recreation facilities that are developed on the Salida Ranger District of the San Isabel National Forest over the next 5 years. In an effort to ensure that all needs are considered, the deadline for submission of ideas has been extended to January 1, 1988.

An advisory group of local citizens with diverse recreation interests was formed to help with the plan which will list specific recreation projects to be developed over the coming 5 years. The advisory group includes:

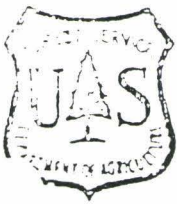
- Dave Bowers-Heart of the Rockies Snowmobile Club representing snowmobiling.
- Judy Green-Salida Chamber of Commerce representing camper & out of town tourist.
- Peggy Hart-Senior Citizen's Center Activity Coordinator representing senior citizen recreation.
- Ed Herb-Representing horse riders.
- Larry Lund-Colorado Trail Riders Assoc. & Rocky Mtn. Trials Assoc. representing motorcyclists.
- Fred Rassmussen-Trout Unlimited representing fishing.
- Dick Scar-Trailhead outdoor supply store in B.V. representing wilderness and cross country skiing.
- Gladie Youngblood-"Skikers" local hiking group representing hiking.

Two meetings of the above group have resulted in many ideas on what is needed in the way of recreation development on the Salida Ranger District.

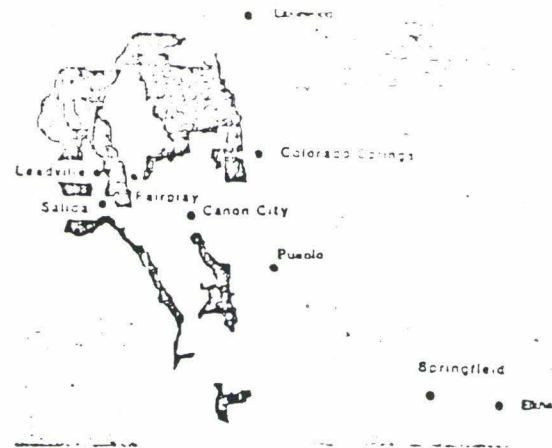
In one final meeting, the group will help to place priorities on the list of projects. This meeting will take place in mid-January. According to recreation forester, Grady McMahan, "This gives the general public one more opportunity for input."







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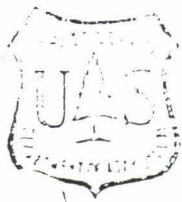
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## PAGE 2 - RECREATION DEVELOPMENT CONT.

Between now and January 1, if anyone has ideas on what is needed in the way of recreation facility development over the next five years on the Salida Ranger District, please submit them to one of the members of the advisory group, or Grady McMahan at the Salida Ranger District. Proposals may range from repair work on existing facilities to new projects as small as handicapped access ramps or as elaborate as an entire new trail.





# NEWS

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Contact: Grady A. McMahan

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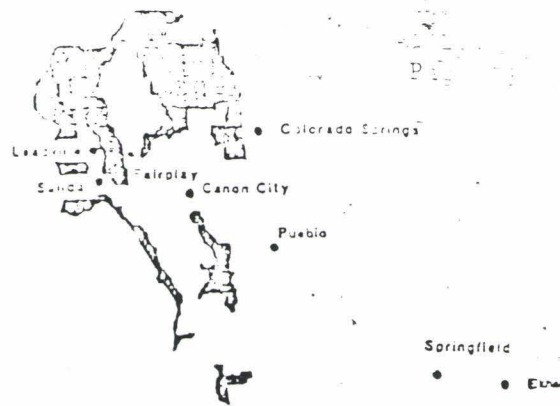
## A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE OF FOREST SERVICE RECREATION

A local advisory group has been helping the Salida Ranger District of the San Isabel National Forest develop a list of needed recreation facilities. The list will be used over the next 5 year planning period to help direct recreation facility development. The advisory group has completed its input. The result is the following list of projects prioritized by order of importance:

1. Develop camping sites & construct outhouse along road in Upper Poncha Creek.
2. Develop an educational nature trail near major campground.
3. Develop camping sites & construct outhouse along road above Cottonwood Lake.
4. Trail to series of water falls on creek south of road to North Fork Reservoir.
5. Enlarge parking at Shirley Site for snowmobile parking.
6. Picnic area & outhouse at Hancock.
7. Maintenance on road to North Fork Lake.
8. Picnic area & trail to water fall on north side of road to North Fork Reservoir just above Angel of Shavano Campground.
9. Cross country ski trail from St. Elmo to Alpine on back road.
10. Outhouse at Gray's Creek camping area just below O'Haver Lake Campground.
11. Mountain bicycle trail in the Aspen Ridge Area.
12. Reopen trail over Calico Pass (between ghost town of Shavano & Grizzly Lake).
13. Cross country ski trail - Cascade Campground.
14. Big Cottonwood Trailhead & Fisherman's Parking.
15. Whitehorn Picnic Area.
16. Mountain bicycle trail-Alpine Tunnel-Hancock Pass.
17. Close 4WD road up Grassy Gulch.
18. Trail from Lower Pomeroy Lake to Grizzly Lake.



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## FUTURE OF FOREST SERVICE RECREATION - PAGE - 2

Before taking action on the above list, the Salida Ranger District is providing one more chance for public input.

Once this list is finalized, some items can be completed without further delay. Others will require further planning and environmental study to determine their feasibility.

If you have any comments on the proposed list, please contact Grady McMahan at the Salida Ranger District Office, or phone 539-3591, before February 15.

APPENDIX N

Annual Status Reports of Plan Implementation  
(To Be Filed Here for Annual Updates)